

MOTION BY SUPERVISOR MICHAEL D. ANTONOVICH

May 6, 2008

GROUP HOME AND FOSTER FAMILY AGENCY CONTRACTS

The Department of Children and Family Services (DCFS) recently notified thirty-eight (38) currently-contracted Group Home and Foster Family Agency service providers that their County contracts for placement services will expire on October 31, 2008. The reason for the notification was because these agencies did not submit a timely response to the Department's advertised solicitation for services. Consequently, placement transition planning for over 700 children placed within these facilities is currently underway.

The out-of-home placement stability of abused and neglected children must remain of utmost concern. Foster children experience some of the highest incidents of mental illness due to the obvious traumas of abuse and neglect; the loss of their biological parents; and ensuing multiple foster care placements. Furthermore, there is much research that indicates that the more placement moves a child has, the less likely it is for that child to achieve his/her permanency goals, whether through reunification, legal guardianship or adoptions. Los Angeles County must make every effort to ensure that the futures of our most vulnerable children are determined through their stability in safe and nurturing environments.

I, THEREFORE, MOVE that the Board of Supervisors directs the Chief Executive Officer, in conjunction with the Auditor-Controller, County Counsel, DCFS and Probation, to report back in 30 days on its review and assessment of the Group Home and Foster Family Agency contract solicitation, including all circumstances unique to the application of this solicitation's process; and develop a Corrective Action Plan based on findings, as necessary.

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MDA:hbb
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